



MEMORANDUM

January 3, 2019

TO: CRWCD Board of Directors

FROM: Hunter Causey, P.E. *HC*

Subject: Fiscal Agency for Yampa IWMP

***ACTION:** Staff request that the Board authorize the River District to act as the fiscal agent for the Yampa Integrated Water Management Plan subject to the District's TABOR capacity.*

***STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:** 2. Outreach in All Basins
7. Water Needs/Project Development
8. Colorado's Water Plan.*

Summary

In 2015, the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable (BRT) completed a Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) which laid out eight goals for the basins. Since then, the BRT developed a hydrology model with the River District acting as the fiscal agent. As a next step to implementing the BIP and building on the modeling efforts, the BRT is implementing an Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) for four segments of the Yampa Basin. The IWMP is a process to collaboratively identify and support actions that help implement the basin goals. It was designed based on extensive stakeholder outreach in 2018. The BRT has requested that the River District continue in the role of fiscal agent (see attached letter). This memorandum is a request that the Board authorize the River District to act as the fiscal agent for the Yampa Integrated Water Management Plan

Staff Resources, Admin Fee, and TABOR Capacity

Fiscal agency for this effort will involve receiving, stewarding, and issuing project funds based on direction from the IWMP Committee and ultimately the BRT. The River District will hold contracts with contractors, provide contract oversight, manage payments and invoicing, and fulfill reporting requirements to financial contributors. Involvement will also require participation in IWMP Committee and BRT meetings. These efforts will require significant time from accounting, technical, and managerial staff. The estimated time requirement for this effort is approximately 400 hours or \$45,000 based on loaded rates. Staff recommends requiring a 10% administration fee to offset the staffing cost.

Receiving state funds will consume roughly 40% of the River Districts remaining TABOR capacity through 2021 based on an IWMP budget of \$476,750 and a two and a half year timeline. One stipulation to fulfilling the role of fiscal agent will be a contingency that the River District has continued ample TABOR capacity.

Discussion

An objective of the 2015 Colorado Water Plan is to cover 80% of rivers with stream management plans. The IWMP provides a roadmap to collaboratively identify and support actions to help implement the goals identified in the BIP. The planning process will involve engaging stakeholders and working with them to identify their needs and projects or strategies that could address those needs without harming others.

Acting as the fiscal agent for the Yampa IWMP is a continuation of the service the River District has been providing. It represents an opportunity to be responsive to and assist River District constituents in the Yampa Basin become more involved in managing their water resources. Ultimately the IWMP will help the YWG BRT identify water needs and projects that help meet Basin needs.

Attachment



December 3, 2018

Mr. Andy Mueller
General Manager
Colorado River Water Conservation District

Dear Mr. Mueller,

At our November 14th meeting, the Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable (YWG BRT) unanimously approved the Yampa River Integrated Water Management Planning (IWMP) grant request to the Colorado Water Conservation Board's Stream Management Plan grant program.

You are receiving this letter because the Colorado River District has been our fiscal agent in numerous projects over the past decade. We would like to continue that relationship into the future and utilize your excellent services to move forward with this IWMP. We recognize that the River District will need to appropriately charge for these services, and that may be a larger percentage than in the past. If the District would consider this formal request and reply with your decision, and fee schedule if applicable, after your January 2019 scheduled meeting that would be appreciated. I would be happy to attend the meeting and present on this IWMP if the Board would like.

The Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable (BRT) is committed to protecting and enhancing the Yampa River for agricultural, municipal, industrial, environmental and recreational users, as expressed in the 2015 Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) and its eight goals. Like all nine Basin Roundtables, the Yampa, White, Green was legislatively created and funded to facilitate discussions on water management and encourage locally-driven collaborative solutions. This IWMP scope of work provides a roadmap to collaboratively identify and support actions that help implement the basin goals.

The BRT determined that an Integrated Water Management Project (IWMP) was better suited to help meet the array of goals in the BIP than a compartmentalized Stream Management Plan. The BRT performed stakeholder outreach in 2018 to assess local support, including:

- Consensus Building Institute, Inc. performed one-on-one interviews with approximately 40 major stakeholders and BRT members,
- Community Agricultural Alliance engaged over 100 agricultural producers in small group meetings,
- Wilson Water Group interviewed Division Engineer staff, and
- River Network facilitated four workshops for BRT members and interested citizens.

As a reminder, while the BRT does its planning work, basin organizations and water users are encouraged to continue to implement projects. The IWMP in no way precludes projects from happening outside this process, and recognizes that important work will continue outside the IWMP.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' and 'B' followed by a horizontal line.

Jackie Brown
Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable, Chair
Enc. YWG BRT IWMP Scope of Work

